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Disclosed are transgenic animals and transfected cell lines expressing a protein associated with Alzheimer's Disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas. Also disclosed is the use of such transgenic animals and transfected cell lines to screen potential drug candidates for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas. The invention also relates to new antisense oligonucleotides, ribozymes, triplex forming DNA and external guide sequences that can be used to treat or prevent Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas.